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Letter dated 17 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 16 January 2001 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith the letter dated 8 January 2001 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the recent abduction of a Turkish Cypriot by Greek Cypriot policemen at the mixed village of Pyla situated in the United Nations-controlled buffer zone (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

I understand that letters of protests about the arrest by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus police of one Panicos Tsakourmas, aged 39, while in possession of drugs is being circulated in all directions by the Greek Cypriot leadership. It is alleged that the said Tsakourmas was abducted by Turkish Cypriots in retaliation to "the arrest" by the Greek Cypriot police of Turkish Cypriot Ömer Gazi Tekoğul at Pyla, a mixed village.

Both Tsakourmas and the Turkish Cypriot Ömer Gazi Tekoğul, aged 42, are in custody pending their trial in the respective courts, one in the Greek side and the other before the Assize Court to be held in February in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Both sides allege that they were kidnapped by the police of the other side. Naturally, it is the relevant courts which will have to decide these issues. The allegation that Tsakourmas was arrested in retaliation to the unlawful arrest of Tekoğul is strenuously denied by the three policemen involved.

But the case of Tekoğul is a clear case of abduction by Greek Cypriot policemen who, concealing their identity, pretended to be a good friend of Tekoğul until the day he was abducted by them.

Tekoğul is a citizen of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, of impeccable character, in charge of the Turkish sports club in Pyla.

On 1 December 2000, at about 2040 hours he had started his car, parked outside a Turkish coffee shop in Pyla, in order to go home when the two Greek Cypriot "friends" approached his car and beckoned him to enter their car for a chat. As soon as Tekoğul entered their car, he was hit on the head, and driven away in the direction of Larnaca. Shortly, four other Greek Cypriot policemen joined them and Tekoğul was taken into custody while his car, outside the coffee shop in Pyla, continued to run. Some hours later, the family was informed by neighbours about the car and Tekoğul's father took it away.

In the mixed village of Pyla, under United Nations control, the rule is that if anyone is arrested by either side, the United Nations should immediately be informed. This was not done in the case of Tekoğul. The family was informed about the said "arrest" 12 hours after the abduction.

Tekoğul's Greek Cypriot advocate Andreas Constantinou made this statement to the Cyprus Mail, on 28 December 2000.

> "I believe the police lied in their statements and I told the Attorney-General this when they said Tekoğul was arrested in the free areas, if they arrested him in free areas why didn't police show us the car?"

All in all it is clear that Tekoğul was abducted in line with the well-known, and long practised Greek Cypriot policy of harassing Turkish Cypriots. Abduction of well-known or popular Turkish Cypriots had stopped for some time, but it appears that the practice is coming back unless United Nations authorities in Pyla take stern steps in this matter.

In view of growing publicity about the Tsakourmas' case I thought I should give this information to you for a fair appraisal of the situation.

Yours respectfully,

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**
President